

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1 – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of incorporating zeolite in a tampon for suppression or removal of menstrual odors, comprising:

distributing zeolite granules on a first non-woven web; and

bonding a second non-woven web to the first non-woven web so that the zeolite granules are sandwiched therebetween,

wherein said zeolite granules are one or more natural zeolites selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite, chabasite, and a combination thereof, and

wherein said zeolite granules are the sole odor-absorbing materials incorporated into the tampon.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 23, further comprising the step of cutting the bonded first and second non-woven webs into one or more strips.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 24, further comprising the step of inserting the one or more strips between at least two absorbent pads prior to forming the tampon.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method of incorporating zeolite in a tampon for suppression or removal of menstrual odors, comprising:

distributing zeolite granules on a first non-woven web;

bonding a second non-woven web to the first non-woven web so that the zeolite granules are sandwiched therebetween; and

cutting the bonded first and second non-woven webs into one or more strips,

wherein said zeolite granules are one or more natural zeolites selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite, chabasite, and a combination thereof, and
wherein said zeolite granules are the sole odor-absorbing materials incorporated into the tampon.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in ~~claim 28~~claim 27, wherein the natural zeolite is clinoptilolite.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein the clinoptilolite is a thermal type 3 clinoptilolite.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 30, wherein the thermal type 3 clinoptilolite is a potassium aluminosilicate natural clinoptilolite.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 31, wherein the potassium is present in an amount of the order of 4.3% of the zeolite.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein the natural zeolite has a solid density of about 87 lb/ft³.

34 - 38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 23, wherein each zeolite granule has a particle size between about 400 microns to about 600 microns.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein each of the one or more strips has at least 0.030 grams of zeolite therein.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said zeolite granules are one or more natural zeolites.

43. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein each of the one or more strips comprises between 0.030 grams and about 0.93 of zeolite.